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**BARLEEIA SEMINULUM (MONTEROSATO, 1877) RECORDED FROM
THE TUNISIAN COAST (GASTROPODA; BARLEEIDAE)@**

KEY WORDS: Gastropoda, Barleeidae, Mediterranean Sea, Tunisia.

Abstract

Barleeia seminulum (Monterosato, 1877) is recorded from Tunisia. Up to now it was only known from Algeria and rarely mentioned in literature. Based on SEM figures we provisionally assign this species to the genus *Barleeia*. Since the original description was not accurate, it is redescribed.

Riassunto

Barleeia seminulum (Monterosato, 1887) è stato raccolto in Tunisia. Fino ad oggi era conosciuto solamente per l'Algeria e raramente citato in bibliografia. Provvisoriamente questa specie viene assegnata al genere *Barleeia* basandosi sulle immagini al microscopio elettronico a scansione. Viene redescritto poiché la descrizione originale non era accurata.

Introduction

In 1877, MONTEROSATO described a new species, *Rissoa seminulum*, from the coast of Algeria. The original description reads as follows: «La forme, la nature du test et la coloration de cette coquille me font douter que ce puisse être une espèce de *Barleeia*, et je pense que cette opinion pourra bien se confirmer, lorsque l'on connaîtra l'animal et l'opercule. Cette espèce est plus large que la précédente: elle a l'ouverture plus prolongée en avant et son péristome est bordé de carmin. Sidi Feruch, espèce littorale». Later, MONTEROSATO (1878) assigned it to *Pisinna*, at that time also considered a genus in the family Rissoidae.

The locus typicus, Sidi Feruch, is about 20 km West of Algiers.

In May 1994, Dr. N. Broodbakker visited Tunisia and donated shell grit from the beach of Tabarka, a place close to the border with Algeria. This shell grit sample contained many interesting micro-molluscs and, to our great surprise, about 40 specimens of *Rissoa seminulum* Monterosato,

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1877. Already Monterosato noticed the problem with this taxon on generic level and doubted between *Barleeia* and *Rissoa*. In the description he finally assigned it to *Rissoa*. The species is not mentioned by PIANI (1980), the E.N.E.A. list of BRUSCHI et al. (1985) and by SABELLI et al. (1990). We encounter the name in OLIVERIO et al. (1988) as *Barleeia seminulum* (Monterosato, 1873 [sic]). VERDUIN (1988) treated the species, but also from Algeria. After preparing a SEM picture of the protoconch (fig. 4) we agree that the species is a barleeid, and judging from the shape of the aperture and general outline indeed a *Barleeia*.

For a final judgement between the genera *Barleeia* and *Pisinna* we need live collected specimens for research of the animal and shape of the operculum. Revisiting Tabarka in September 1994 Dr. Broodbakker washed algae on our request but unfortunately there were no living specimens among the many rissooids he collected.

The record of this uncommon species in Tunisia is a considerable range extension to the east.

Since the description of MONTEROSATO (1877) was very brief and the drawing very small, we will give additional information by means of a description and SEM pictures (Figg. 1–4).

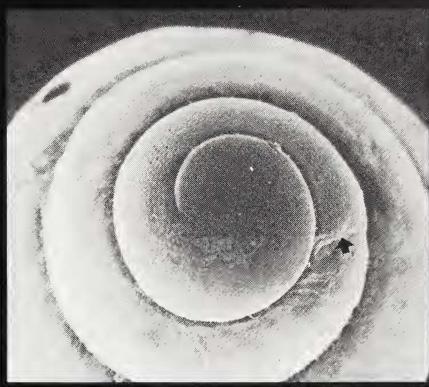
Shell straight with a rapid tapering outlook, topangle about 40°. Length ranges from 1.5 to 2 mm, width 0.8 to 1.1 mm. Protoconch flat, pitted and with 1.15 whorls. Teleoconch consists of 2.2 to 3 nearly flat whorls of which the ultimate whorl is about 75% of the total height of the shell. Height of the aperture is about 40% of the total height. Peristome simple and continuous. Colour shell and protoconch very pale red-brown, transparent, columella pale carmin.

Acknowledgement:

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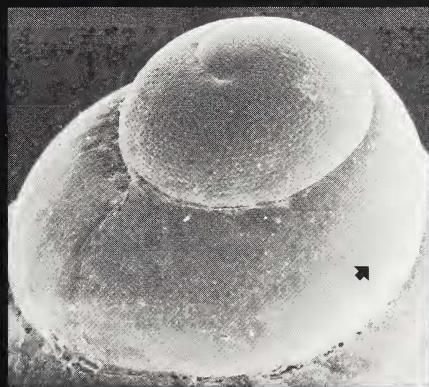
1



3



2



4

Fig. 1–4. *Barleeia seminulum*. 1, Shape of aperture, height of shell 1.85 mm. 2, Shape of outerlip, height of shell 1.55 mm. 3, Shape of initial whorl. 4, Shape of protoconch. Scale line 100 μm . Black arrows indicate protoconch–teleoconch demarcation.

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